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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/083,468

02/27/2002

Katsuhiko Uchiyama

1602.1008

8245

21171 7590 03/15/2007

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

SUITE 700

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EXAMINER

HESS, DANIEL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/15/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/083,468

Applicant(s)

UCHIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel A. Hess

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/27/2002 (initial filing).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/27/02, 4/16/06, 9/15/06 11-26-03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to Applicant's filing of 2/27/2002, which has been entered into the electronic file of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe (US 4,585,928).

Re claim 1: Watanabe teaches an ATM machine having all of the elements and means as recited in the above claims.

For the sake of clarity, the limitations of this claim are listed below in italics, followed in each case by a discussion of how Watanabe teaches the limitations of the claim.

A store cash depositing and dispensing apparatus comprising:

See the title of Watanabe itself: "Automatic depositing/dispensing apparatus". As for a store, the apparatus could certainly be placed in a store.

a depositing section for depositing an amount of cash;

Clearly in an machine that acts both as a depositing and dispensing device, there is a depositing section, as Watanabe makes clear throughout.

a sector designation section for designating a sector defining whether or not it will be possible to perform withdrawal of said amount deposited by said depositing section after depositing;

As Watanabe makes clear (column 3, lines 5-25) there is a plurality of different bill storage areas. There is a first and second storage for storing (and recirculating) a first second denomination of bill. There is also a “third storage section 14 for storing ...unsuitable notes for dispensing such as rejected ones.” This third area is clearly a section where notes are not re-dispensed; it will not be possible to withdraw notes from this section.

See also especially (column 14, lines 27-35): “Accordingly, the depositing/dispensing apparatus of this embodiment is provided with a circulation prohibiting **switch 44**. When this switch 44 is operated, all the former notes are stored in the third storage section 14. Thus, the third storage section 14 **serves only as a depositing safe**. The newly issued first- and second-denomination notes Pa and Pb are set in the first and second storage sections 16 and 15, which are used for dispensation only.”

The designation section can thus be considered to be the switch which dictates whether old bills will be allowed to be recirculated.

a first management section for managing amount data relating to said amount deposited by said depositing section based on said sector designated by said sector designation section;

Clearly, in an ATM, when a user deposits money, the system must by necessity keep track of the amount deposited. One sector designation is denomination, and clearly denomination is important in tracking the amount.

a first housing portion for housing said cash deposited by said depositing section so as to be withdrawable by a depositing operator;

As discussed above, certain sections are designated for recirculation.

a withdrawal section for withdrawing an amount of said cash housed in said first housing portion based on a predetermined withdrawal instruction; a second management section for managing amount data relating to said amount withdrawn by said withdrawal section;

Every ATM of course has a withdrawal section, and a way of tracking it, at the very least to confirm that the user has proper funds (column 11, lines 14-20).

a second housing portion for housing cash so as not to be withdrawable by said depositing operator; and

As discussed above in column 14, lines 28-35, “third storage section 14 serves only as a depositing safe.”

a conveyance section for conveying at least a portion of said cash housed in said first housing portion to said second housing portion based on a predetermined conveyance instruction.

See column 12, lines 30-45 and also, lines 45-47. Notes which are being dispensed from one of the storage areas may be judged to be not fit for recirculation and then from a storage area 1 or storage area 2, they may be redirected to storage area 3 as being unfit.

Re claim 2:

Watanabe teaches (column 8, lines 24-28) that notes are counted in several places. Clearly as notes are moved within the machine they would be counted, since money in an ATM must not be lost or misplaced.

Re claim 5: In an ATM, one can certainly withdraw more than one deposits at the ATM. In fact, many people, this Examiner included, use an ATM only to withdraw money.

Re claim 6: An ATM communicates with an outside network (see Watanabe, column 11, lines 14-20) to confirm a user's balance. This system works in concert with the management sections that dispense money.

Re claim 7: As discussed above, the ATM in Watanabe has a section which controls dispensing such that authority is given to customers to withdraw bills from one section, but not from another section (i.e. ordinary customers can only collect 'fit' bills and not 'unfit' bills).

Re claim 8: An ATM permits control from the outside, i.e. via its user interface.

Re claims 9 and 10: See discussion re claim 1, above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Re claim 3: It is clear in Watanabe that there is no minimum number of bills or notes to be stored the non-recirculating area. It is a safe that stores bills which for whatever reason are

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judged to be not for recirculation, and there could theoretically be zero bills, one bill or many bills located there. Elsewhere, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest this limitation.

Re claim 4: The Examiner notes that here, 'conveyance section' means the section conveying bills to the permanent non-circulating storage area from the section where bills are deposited such that they can be withdrawn later.

There is no particular amount in Watanabe that is conveyed into the non-recirculating area, nor any rule dictating a threshold of amount at which bills are moved into the non-circulating area. Instead, Watanabe examines bills individually and moves 'unfit' bills one by one into this non-circulating area. Elsewhere, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest this limitation.

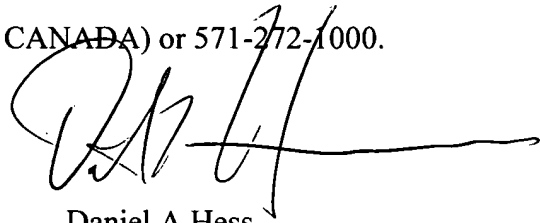
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel A. Hess whose telephone number is (571) 272-2392. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. A. Hess', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel A Hess
Examiner
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2/23/2007